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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Poland/USSR

REPORT

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SUBJECT

Zurawica and Mostiska Transloading
Stations on the Polish-Soviet
Border

DATE DISTR.

23 June 1954

NO. OF PAGES

2

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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1. Zurawica is one of the transshipment stations for traffic between Eastern Germany and Poland and the USSR. Transshipment takes place at the following stations:
 - (a) Zurawica (in Poland), the terminal for a Soviet wide gauge line.
 - (b) Medyka (on Polish territory).
 - (c) Mostiska (on Soviet territory), the terminal for a standard gauge line.
2. There are two railway stations at Zurawica: the normal railway station and the freight yards.
3. The normal station has one ramp, where sugar beet for the Przeworsk sugar refinery is loaded. This ramp is occasionally used for off-loading military equipment such as armed force vehicles, guns, mortars, etc, from the USSR. Near this ramp are located the warehouses of the Samopomoc Chlopska (Peasants' Mutual Aid Organization).
4. The marshalling yards at Zurawica cover an area of about two kilometers in width. There are six reinforced concrete ramps, of which the longest is about one kilometer long. Three are served by standard-gauge and three by Soviet-gauge traffic. The longest ramp is generally used for loading Polish coal for the USSR. Transloading is carried out by hand and not by mechanical means. This ramp is also used for German brown coal shipments. One of the other ramps is mainly used for Soviet grain and iron ore shipments.
5. There is a Soviet repair shop for rolling stock at Zurawica, which employs about 50-60 Soviet workers. They live in railroad coaches. There is also a much larger Polish workshop.

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6. Zurawica is also equipped with its own power station for use in particular in the case of a breakdown at Stalowa Wola which normally serves this area.
7. The Polish and Soviet coal depots (for the locomotives) are separate. The coal is loaded mechanically.
8. Goods of German origin are generally transshipped at Mostiska. These trains have German crews. There is also a German-manned office in Mostiska. Uranium ore shipments are transshipped in Mostiska. The German trains load mainly cotton and foodstuffs from the USSR.

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